

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 02935 312129Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
TRSE-00 HA-05 AID-05 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /092 W

-----028188 312139Z /73

O P 312100Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4756
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS CZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2935

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR, SAEC
SUBJECT: REFORMISTAS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST US "INTERVENTION"

1. AT ABOUT 9 AM GROUP OF PARTIDO REFORMISTA DEMONSTRATORS
WHICH EVENTUALLY GREW TO CROWD IN EXCESS OF
500 GATHERED AT EMBASSY GATES TO CHANT "YANKEE-GO-HOME" SLOGANS.

2. CROWD WAS NOT PARTICULARLY UGLY; IN FACT, MORE THAN
A FEW FLASHED V-SIGN AT EMBOFSS INDICATING THEY WERE
REALLY FOR THE PRD. AT ONE POINT, PUSHING AGAINST LOCKED
GATE, IT APPEARED DEMONSTRATORS MIGHT BREAK IN. EMBASSY
SECURITY GUARDS SHOUTED WARNINGS, HOWEVER, AND CROWD PULLED
BACK.

3. ABOUT HALF A DOZEN POLICEMEN WERE ON HAND AND WHEN
EMBOFF CALLED POLICE HQ TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL POLICE, HE
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WAS TOLD BY CLERK THAT THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR WORRY SINCE
"HIGH POLICE OFFICIALS" WERE OBSERVING SCENE. EMBASSY
SECURITY OFFICERS TRIED TO RAISE THEIR CONTACTS IN POLICE
AND SECURITY SERVICES, BUT THE LATTER WERE REPORTED TO BE
UNAVAILABLE. DCM THEREUPON CALLED FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY PADILLA
TO EXPRESS CONCERN AT WHAT APPEARED TO BE INADEQUATE POLICE
PROTECTION IF DEMONSTRATORS BECAME MORE AGGRESSIVE AND AT

UNRESPONSIVENESS OF POLICE HQ TO EMBASSY REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE FORCE. FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD REPORT THIS IMMEDIATELY TO FOREIGN SECRETARY. DCM NOTED ALSO THAT EMBASSY HAD RELIABLE INFORMATION TO EFFECT EMPLOYEES OF AT LEAST ONE COMPANY IN GODR-CONTROLLED CORDE COMPLEX WERE ORDERED TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMONSTRATION.

4. AMBASSADOR CARRIED OUT SCHEDULED CALL ON PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AT 10:15 AND EXPRESSED HOPE CROWD WOULD HAVE DISPERSED BY TIME HE RETURNED TO EMBASSY.

5. AT 10:45, AFTER AN HOUR AND HALF OF CHANTING ON CUE TO SLOGANS SHOUTED BY CROWD MANAGERS WITH BULL HORNS, THE DEMONSTRATORS MOVED ON TO HASSLE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY NEARBY WHICH, LACKING HIGH FENCE, WAS SUBJECTED TO A BARRAGE OF TRASH ON THE GROUNDS; SOME ALTERCATIONS WERE ALSO REPORTED. OTHER FIST FIGHTS BROKE AS CROWD MOVED ON TO NATIONAL PALACE SHOUTING DEMANDS FOR EXPULSION OF AMERICAN AND VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATS. PRD TOOK TO THE AIRWAVES LATER IN THE MORNING TO DENOUNCE DEMONSTRATIONS.

6. COMMENT: THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ORGANIZED BY DIEHARD FUYOBON OF REFORMISTAS TO LET US KNOW OF THEIR UNHAPPINESS WITH THEIR PERCEPTION USG HAS SIDED WITH PRD, AND TO BLOW OFF A LITTLE STEAM. THEIR POINT WAS MADE WAS OURS IN RESPONSE. THIS CLUMSY EFFORT WILL REACT AGAINST THEM ON
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LOCAL SCENE AND WE BELIEVE CASE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CLOSED.
PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY US PRESS COVERAGE.
YOST

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Message Attributes

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